

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following substitute title:

--- Color Image Forming Apparatus with a Removable and Inclined Intermediate Transfer Body Unit (As Amended) ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

--- The present invention may be described in at least the following conceptual descriptions: (1) A plurality of image forming units are individually positioned to and held with an intermediate transfer body unit; (2) A plurality of photo-receptors are fixedly supported by one housing to form an assembled photo-receptor developing unit, and the assembled photo-receptor developing unit is being positioned to and held with the intermediate transfer body unit; and (3) One of plural photo-receptors is fixed to and supported by one housing to form a photo-receptor unit, and the remaining photo-receptors are fixed to and supported by one housing to form an assembled photo-receptor developing unit, and the photo-receptor unit and the assembled photo-receptor developing unit are individually positioned to and held with the intermediate transfer body unit. An intermediate transfer body unit and a plurality of image forming units are integrally assembled. With this feature, in attaching the image forming units to the apparatus main body, sufficient strength of the image forming units is secured while the size of the whole image forming apparatus is reduced. The stable picture quality is

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ensured regardless of the thickness and a moisture absorbing property of the sheet and others. Further, the user can remove a jammed sheet at the time of paper jamming. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

--- In Figs. 1 and 2, the optical units 1a to 1d, while corresponding to the respective colors, are disposed on the rear side (right side on the paper surface of the drawing) within the main body of the image forming apparatus. Those optical units emit laser lights ~~[[36a]] 41a to [[36d]] 41d to photo-receptor~~ photo-receptors 28a to 28d forming latent images in horizontal directions. The optical units 1 are each made up of a semiconductor laser (not shown), a polygon mirror 2, an image forming lens 3, and a reflecting mirror 4. The polygon mirror 2 receives light emitted from the semiconductor laser (not shown), and deflects it for scanning, and the laser light passes through the image forming lens 3 and the reflecting mirror 4 and lands on an exposure point on ~~[[the]] a~~ a photo-receptor 28. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

--- Image forming units 5 (5a to 5d) used in the instant embodiment will be described with reference to Fig. 2 and Fig. 4. In each image forming unit 5, a photo-receptor unit 8 (8a to 8d) and a developing unit 6 (6a to 6d), which are provided for each color, may be considered to be assembled into one housing. In view of the recent

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trend of increase of the service life of expendables, it is convenient to sort those components based on the length of the service life and to assemble them into a housing. In this instance, one photo-receptor unit 8 (8a to 8d) and one developing unit 6 (6a to 6d) are housed in their own housings, respectively. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

--- Fig. 5 is a view schematically showing the attaching of the image forming units according to a second embodiment of the invention. No description or only a simple description will be given about the portions in the second embodiment which are the same as and similar to those in the first embodiment. In Fig. 5, plural photo-receptors 28 (28a to 28d) are assembled into one housing (not shown) to form an assembled photo-receptor ~~developing~~ unit 7. The photo-receptor units 8 (8a to 8d) are inserted into photo-receptor guide grooves 35 (35a and 35b) of unit side plates 33 that are provided on both sides of the intermediate transfer body unit 18 such that the rotation center shafts of the photo-receptors 28a and 28d, which are respectively located most upstream and most downstream as viewed in the image forming process flow, are guided by and inserted into those photo-receptor guide grooves 35. ~~And, the~~ The assembled photo-receptor ~~developing~~ unit 7 is positioned to and held with the intermediate transfer body unit 18 by means of unit fixing means 37. Thus, in the instant embodiment, the plural photo-receptor units 8 (8a to 8d) are assembled into one

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assembled photo-receptor developing unit 7. Therefore, those photo-receptor units 8 (8a to 8d) can be replaced with new ones at one time. This feature reduces a frequency of expendable replacements. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

--- In the embodiment of Fig. 6, one of plural photo-receptors is fixed to and supported by one housing to form a photo-receptor unit 42. The remaining photo-receptors are fixed to and supported by one housing to form an assembled photo-receptor developing unit 43. Of those photo-receptor units, the assembled photo-receptor developing unit 43 is inserted into photo-receptor guide grooves 45 (45a and 45b) of unit side plates 33 that are provided on both sides of the intermediate transfer body unit 18 such that the rotation center shafts of the photo-receptors 28a and 28c, which are respectively located most upstream and downstream as viewed in the image forming process flow are guided by and inserted into those photo-receptor guide grooves 45. ~~And, the~~ The assembled photo-receptor developing 43 is positioned to and held with the intermediate transfer body unit 18 by a unit fixing means 37. The photo-receptor unit 42 is inserted into photo-receptor guide grooves 44 of the unit side plates 33 that are provided on both sides of the intermediate transfer body unit 18 such that the rotation center shaft of the photo-receptor 28d is guided by and inserted into those photo-receptor guide grooves 44. And, the photo-receptor unit 42 is positioned to and held with the intermediate transfer body unit 18. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

--- As described above, in the instant embodiment, the photo-receptors are divided into two photo-receptor units, the photo-receptor unit 42 and the assembled photo-receptor developing unit 43. The reason for this follows. The color image forming apparatus is generally operated in two print modes, a monochromatic print mode and a color print mode. The frequencies of using those print modes are almost equal. Accordingly, if the photo-receptors are divided into the photo-receptor unit 42 for black printing and the assembled photo-receptor developing unit 43 for color (Y, M, C) printing, the photo-receptor unit may be replaced with a new one according to the frequency of using the photo-receptor or photo-receptors. Therefore, the work of replacing the image forming units as expendables is enhanced, and further the running cost of the apparatus is reduced. Operation of the instant embodiment is omitted since the operations of the second and third embodiments are correspondingly applied to the instant embodiment. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

--- Reference is made to Fig. 7. Each photo-receptor unit 8 (8a to 8d) used in the instant embodiment may be installed as one unit in a guide part (not shown) of the apparatus main body. In the instant embodiment, however, to improve the

maintenance for replacement, the photo-receptor units 8 (8a to 8d) are supportingly fixed to one housing by means of screws in a state that the rotation center axes of the photo-receptors are aligned with one another (The thus assembled photo-receptor developing units will be referred to as an assembled photo-receptor developing unit 7.).

When the assembled photo-receptor developing unit 7 is installed into the apparatus main body, the photo-receptor units are vertically and obliquely arranged from upstream to downstream sides as viewed in a color forming process flow, while being successively shifted to optical units 1 (1a to 1d) disposed on the rear side of the apparatus (on the right side on a paper surface of the drawing). ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

--- Fig. 7 is a view showing an image forming apparatus according to the fourth embodiment of the invention. A housing of the main body is constructed as shown in Fig. 7, a door 17 is attached to the left side of the apparatus main body. When the door 17 is opened, a component attaching opening is formed in the apparatus main body. The assembled developing unit 24, the assembled photo-receptor developing unit 7 and the intermediate transfer body unit 18 are inserted into and taken out of the apparatus main body. A transfer roller 36 is mounted on the door 17. When the door 17 is closed, the transfer roller 36 collectively transfers the toner images from the intermediate transfer belt 19 onto a recording sheet at a position where it is confronted

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with the upper belt follower roller 21 which tensionally supports the intermediate transfer belt 19. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

--- In an embodiment of the invention, a plurality of photo-receptors are fixedly supported by one housing to form an assembled photo-receptor developing unit, and the assembled photo-receptor developing unit is positioned to and held with the intermediate transfer body unit. Since the plurality of image forming units are assembled into one assembled photo-receptor developing unit, the plural photo-receptors can be replaced with new ones at one time, and a frequency of replacing expendables with new ones is reduced. ---

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

--- In another embodiment of the invention, one of plural photo-receptors is fixed to and supported by one housing to form a photo-receptor unit, and the remaining photo-receptors are fixed to and supported by one housing to form an assembled photo-receptor developing unit. The photo-receptor unit and the assembled photo-receptor developing unit are individually positioned to and held with the intermediate transfer body unit. With this feature, the photo-receptor unit may be replaced with a new one according to the frequency of using the two print modes, the monochromatic

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print mode and the color print mode. Therefore, the work of replacing the image forming units as expendables is enhanced, and further the running cost of the apparatus is reduced. ---